

VZCZCXYZ0011
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHAM #1058 1271133
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 071133Z MAY 09
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5041
INFO RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 6243
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 4015
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 2151
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1698
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 5503

UNCLAS AMMAN 001058

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

FOR EEB/TPP/MTAA/ABT (RYAN) AND NEA/ELA (GREGONIS)
STATE PASS USTR (DOHERTY AND FRANCESKI)
USDA FOR OSTA (HAMILTON AND BEAN)
CAIRO FOR KURZ

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ETRD](#) [ECON](#) [KFLU](#) [AEMR](#) [ASEC](#) [AMED](#)
CASC, KFLO, TBIO, KSAF, KPAO, PREL, PINR, AMGT, TF
SUBJECT: TFFLU01 -- DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON REMOVAL OF JORDANIAN
TRADE BANS ON PORK DUE TO H1N1 FEARS

REF: A) STATE 44615, B) STATE 44254

¶1. (SBU) EconOffs delivered May 7 ref B demarche urging the lifting of Jordanian trade bans on pork products to Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) Secretary General Dr. Montasser Okla and MOIT Director for Foreign Trade Policy Maha Al-Ali. Okla clarified that the ban, reported in the press, only applied to fresh pork. Frozen and heat-treated products, as well as items containing pork by-products are exempt. Nevertheless, he was critical of the knee-jerk decision, explaining that an intergovernmental committee, with pressure from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health, forced the ban and failed to consult with MOIT. He welcomed a copy of the May 2 World Animal Health Organization statement as well as the nonpaper detailing the safety of U.S. exports and describing the means of virus transmission, and promised to respond in writing once MOIT resolved the situation.

¶2. (U) Post will demarche separately the Minister of Agriculture, who is currently out of the country.

¶3. (U) Jordanian imports of U.S. pork products in 2008 were negligible. Imported items, however, were frozen or heat-treated and not fresh.

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